

I am writing to express my opinion that the FCC should reject petition 04-160. I am a customer of XM Radio and it disturbs me that the FCC is continually being used as a pawn in the commercial marketplace. Large broadcast conglomerates and their associations should not be allowed to determine what I have available to me for listening, whether it be over the free AM and FM radio waves or through a paid service such as XM Radio. With their dedicated content channels and low amounts of advertising, XM Radio provides me with services that I cannot find anywhere else. Recently I traveled to Washington DC and found that XM's traffic service for that metropolitan area a real time saver. While traffic reports are certainly available over the airwaves, I was able to instantly obtain the information relevant to my area without spinning through the radio dial or waiting for a song or a commercial to end. Services such as these are what make XM stand out from broadcast radio.

Since I pay a monthly fee for this improved level of service, I would expect that the service would be free from significant regulation. XM's continued presence in the marketplace, operating as they do today, encourages competition and innovation. Perhaps radio broadcasters could take some lessons from XM Radio and provide services outside the overly commercial and mindless programming they provide today. Free speech and freedom of expression should be the trademark of broadcast mediums everywhere, not just over satellite.

With that, I would respectfully urge that the FCC reject petition 04-160 and set a new course away from over-regulating our right to free speech.